

Memorandum

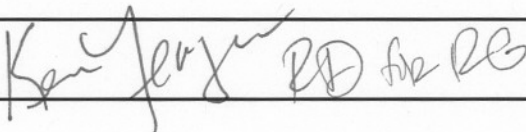
TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Mayor Ron Gonzales
Councilmember Ken Yeager

**SUBJECT: CALTRAIN COLLEGE PARK
STATION CLOSURE**

DATE: 04-12-05

Approved

 RD for RG

Date 4/12/05

Council District: 6
SNI Area: N/A

RECOMMENDATION

Adoption of a resolution opposing the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board proposal for terminating Caltrain service to the College Park Station in San Jose.

BACKGROUND

Caltrain is proposing major revisions to passenger rail service that operates between San Francisco and Gilroy. These proposed changes, which would take effect July 1, 2005, would include the closure of four stations along the Caltrain corridor. The list of stations targeted for closure includes the College Park Station, near Bellarmine College Preparatory, in San Jose.

The Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB), the governing board for Caltrain service, is faced with a \$13 million budget shortfall for fiscal year 2006. As a result, JPB staff has evaluated measures that would decrease operating costs, increase ridership and fare revenue and improve overall operating efficiency. Due, in large part, to the success of the Caltrain Express/Baby Bullet service that was initiated last summer, Caltrain staff is proposing a series of actions that would provide more Express and limited stop service, while closing four stations.

ANALYSIS

It is clear that there are significant financial challenges facing Caltrain. Caltrain must make changes to its current service if it is to continue to provide the valuable service that is used by the residents of San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties. While the City of San José supports many of the proposed service modifications that Caltrain staff has recommended, we cannot support the termination of Caltrain service to College Park Station for the following reasons:

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- The College Park Station is currently served by only 12 Caltrain trains per day, yet it is the site of 93 passengers boarding trains and 215 passengers alighting from trains on an average weekday (Caltrain October 2004 estimate).
- Among the four stations that Caltrain staff is recommending for closure, College Park has by far the highest ridership per train.
- The minimal cost savings resulting from eliminating service to the College Park Station do not warrant the elimination of all train service to the station.
- Elimination of service to the College Park Station would have a severe impact on Bellarmine College Preparatory. Bellarmine faculty, staff, students, parents and visitors take advantage of Caltrain service to access the campus from San Francisco and San Mateo County, as well as Santa Clara County cities along the Peninsula. The ability of more than two hundred Bellarmine students a day – more than 15% of its student body to access this long-time academic community through Caltrain service would be adversely affected if the station were closed.
- The College Park Residential Permit Parking Zone currently provides sufficient parking capacity for Bellarmine students who drive to school. The Permit Parking Zone allows street parking during school hours without impacting residents who live in the surrounding neighborhoods. Closure of the College Park Caltrain Station would likely increase parking demands at Bellarmine and significantly reduces capacity in the Permit Parking Zone. As a result, additional traffic and parked vehicles would begin to spread to nearby residential streets.

We urge our colleagues to approve this recommendation.